

Testimony on Senate Bill– Favorable SB 0854
Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Restrictions

February 24, 2026

Dear Chairperson Smith and Vice Chair Waldstreicher:

My name is Cathy Morrison, and I am a resident of Marriottsville, MD. I am writing as a concerned Maryland resident to urge you and your colleagues in the General Assembly to pass legislation that explicitly bans racial profiling, especially as it relates to cooperation between state and local authorities and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Racial profiling—the practice of targeting individuals for law enforcement action based on race, ethnicity, or national origin rather than on evidence or behavior—is discriminatory, unconstitutional, and deeply harmful to our communities. When law enforcement agencies or local authorities collaborate with ICE using racial or ethnic criteria, it fosters fear, erodes trust, and drives a dangerous wedge between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

Such practices do not make us safer. Instead, they lead to wrongful detentions, family separations, and widespread fear among immigrant and minority communities. Victims and witnesses of crimes become less likely to report offenses or cooperate with police, undermining public safety for everyone.

Maryland has long been a leader in promoting fairness and justice under the law. By enacting a specific and enforceable ban on racial profiling, the General Assembly can reaffirm our state’s commitment to equality, protect the civil rights of all Marylanders, and ensure that local resources are not used to further racially biased immigration enforcement.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report on SB0854**. Our communities deserve policies rooted in justice, not prejudice.

Cathy Morrison